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ANNUAL REPORT

**CONFEDERATE
RELIC ROOM**

1984 - 1985

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**Accredited by the
American Association
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**Printed Under the Direction of the
State Budget and Control Board**

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CONFEDERATE RELIC ROOM AND MUSEUM

Accredited by
The American Association of Museums

DIRECTOR
(LaVerne H. Watson)

**ADMINISTRATIVE
ASSISTANT**
(Renee M. Watts)

**ASSOCIATE
CURATORS**
(A. Lee Mangum)
(Dotsy L. Boineau)
(Christopher H. Craft)

DIRECTOR

The Director is responsible for the entire operation of the museum. In addition to supervising the every day operation, she is responsible for locating and acquiring gifts; keeping abreast of the latest methods of conservation and display; identifying objects for the public; preparation of the budget request, detail budget and annual report.

ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT

The Administrative Assistant is responsible for office management including secretarial work; personnel records; proper accounting and expenditures of all monies; payroll; assisting in the preparation of the budget request, detail budget and annual report; answering the telephone and screening calls; ordering supplies and authorizing requisitions and vouchers; opening and distributing mail; reports to other agencies (Retirement, Labor, Personnel, etc.); attends workshops and meetings pertaining to fiscal and personnel subjects.

ASSOCIATE CURATORS

The Curators are responsible for scheduling and conducting tours and meetings; giving information to visitors; inventory of artifacts; performing research; acquiring and accessioning gifts; conservation, which includes periodically cleaning firearms and swords, conditioning leather, and restoration of fabrics; exhibits, which includes making costumes, fabricating, designing and changing displays, composing narrative, labelling and sign making; keeping the museum areas clean and attractive; carpentry.

AUTHORITY

The authority for the operation of the museum is vested in the annual Appropriation Act, commencing with 1909 and running continuously to the present.

HISTORY OF THE MUSEUM

The collection was started in 1895 by the Wade Hampton Chapter, United Daughters of the Confederacy. A room was provided in the Library of the South Carolina College to house the artifacts. Before long the collection had outgrown the facility. In 1901 the Legislature assigned a room on the Senate side of the balcony in the State House. Keeping the collection available to visitors five days per week, in addition to seeking additional gifts, and cataloging, had become burdensome for the volunteers, so in 1909 the Legislature appropriated funds for the maintenance and has continued to do so.

Although the ladies primarily were interested in collecting and preserving artifacts from the Confederate period, they soon realized that they should collect from all periods of South Carolina history, lest the items be lost. So by the turn of the century they had expanded their horizons. Being the only historical repository in this area, Constitutional Officers and Legislators placed artifacts in the collection as early as 1901. Some of the early accessions included the vest of John Huger, first Secretary of State of South Carolina, 1776; sections of the stockade of Charles Fort, 1562; a wedding dress made from draperies, 1868; a cannon marked 1778. Letters, seeking return of South Carolina historical items, were sent and continue to be sent to members of the United Daughters of the Confederacy throughout the country. As a result many gifts have been received. To mention a few, from San Diego, California, came the Catawba Rifles Flag; from Alabama, the Colors of the Claremont Rifles; from Arizona, a sailor's blouse and two sailor hats from the *USS South Carolina*; from Maryland, Confederate currency issued by the Bank of South Carolina, 1863; from Mississippi, sheet music, circa 1864, printed in Columbia. Through this association, we continue to receive valuable artifacts.

To date, only \$8,350 of state funds have been spent for acquiring historical artifacts. The collection is insured for \$1,000,000. The current market value steadily increases.

RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE MUSEUM

We have received accreditation from the American Association of Museums. Less than 10% of the museums in this country have received this distinction. This demonstrates that we operate on a professional level in accordance with standards of excellence prescribed by the American Association of Museums.

Our function is to provide museum services. We collect, preserve and display items of historical value from all periods of South Carolina history. Additional functions include research; aiding other museums upon request; organizing and conducting tours for school, civic, historical groups and senior citizens; supplying information to visitors and the public; identifying objects; supplying speakers for schools, civic groups and homes for the elderly; making the museum available for meetings of historical and civic groups; inventory; conservation; acquiring gifts then accessioning them; designing and changing exhibits. Primarily we are an educational institution and education is the justification for what we do. Our services are for the benefit of our people.

To adequately serve a museum the Director must become involved with other museum professionals and organizations. The Director serves on the following: a Research Fellow in the Institute of Southern Studies, at the University of South Carolina; on Central Midlands Regional Planning Council for Historical Preservation; a Reader for the Institute of Museum Services, US Department of Education, in the Grants Program; a member of the Columbia Museums Directors Association; Secretary of Save the Flags Committee, a group affiliate of National Parks Service, working to raise funds for the restoration and display of two US flags and a Palmetto flag which flew over Fort Sumter in 1861. The Director was honored with a Certificate of Recognition from the Air Force ROTC and invited to review a Dress Parade of the unit. She was a guest of the Army ROTC at their Washington's Birthday luncheon, consisting of combat rations.

We hold memberships in and/or attend meetings of the American Association of Museums, Southeastern Federation of Museums, South Carolina Federation of Museums, Columbia Museums Directors Association, American Association for State and Local History and the Smithsonian Institution, in order to keep abreast of the status quo in the museum profession.

COLLECTIONS

Artifacts:

These are a primary concern. We attempt to acquire as many South Carolina items of historical value as possible. Too frequently our relics appear in antique shops, many drift out of State. By attending museum and historical meetings, we have cultivated and maintained good contacts and are able to form new ones. Each acquisition must be accessioned, cataloged, inventoried in a cross reference file, then placed in storage. A photographic inventory serves as the only true identification of artifacts. We were prepared to start our inventory, but lack of funding has delayed this.

Our gifts during the past year came from South Carolina, New Jersey, Virginia, Florida, Texas and Massachusetts. Included are a pair of boots captured from a German officer; two packets of seeds, which were flown into space; a South Carolina flag, which was taken to the moon; prints and photographs; a copy of an 1861-65 diary; uniforms; a musket, a sword and sabre; a captured Nazi flag; space and ships models.

Exhibits:

We have the responsibility of telling the South Carolina story through a museum which is attractive, informative and appealing. Our visitors must be impressed by what they see and learn. Display cases must be kept clean and refabricated (covered in cloth) periodically. Touch-up painting is necessary. Props for displays must be constructed. Narratives must be composed for each case, then signs made. All of this work is performed by the staff.

The Lower Gallery exhibits reflect various periods of South Carolina history: clothing; dolls; quilts; sweetgrass baskets; Catawba pottery; currency; stamps; medals; firearms; edged weapons; uniforms; remnant of the flag of the South Carolina 2nd Regiment of Black Troops, raised on Hilton Head Island; and other various types of memorabilia. A new exhibit on mourning has proved to be popular. Apparently this is due to the fact that we no longer observe many of the customs of yesteryear.

In the Upper Gallery we pay tribute to South Carolinians in the military, both past and present. One can see firearms; uniforms; flags; accouterments from the Colonial era up to and including Vietnam. Also featured are South Carolinians in the Space program.

A new naval exhibit was possible due to the gifts of two ships' models ---the frigate *South Carolina*, 1780, and the *USS South Carolina*, 1908. Still another new exhibit---one on the *USS Columbia*, 1942, was installed.

The Space exhibit was reworked to include seeds, which were flown into space, and a South Carolina flag carried to the moon by Brigadier General Charles M. Duke.

An additional Space exhibit was added depicting all manned NASA vehicles which have been used, including the Space Shuttle.

Preservation:

It is necessary to keep abreast of the latest techniques in conservation. Firearms and edged weapons must be cleaned and oiled periodically. Woods and leathers must be treated. Often extensive sewing is necessary in affording proper care to fabrics, including flags, clothing, etc. If we know not how to preserve our heirlooms, then we would be wasting our time in collecting them.

The restorations of fabrics are a slow, tedious work. We continue to work on clothing and flags as time permits. Firearms and edged weapons were cleaned regularly. All silver and brass were polished regularly.

ADDITIONAL ACTIVITIES

Primarily we are an educational institution. Two hundred and fifty letters are sent annually to schools, urging teachers to bring their classes to Columbia for educational tours. The response has been good.

Appointments were scheduled for school groups touring the museum, in addition to nine requests to arrange all day tours at Columbia area museums. Annually we have school groups from Stoney Point, North Carolina and Clearwater, Florida. Tours were conducted for schools and kindergartens, University of South Carolina classes, Newberry College classes, Senior Citizens, Scouts, State Department of Mental Health, Department of Youth Services, civic and historical groups.

Meetings at the museums were held by: Daughters of 1812; DAR; UDC; SCV. Eight ceremonies were conducted in the Upper Gallery by the ROTC units at the University of South Carolina and the Jr. AROTC unit from Hopkins.

We should take pride in the fact that men and women in other states are representing South Carolina units in reenactments throughout the country. We know of no family ties in South Carolina, so it is a tribute to our state, that they have chosen to represent us. We have researched

uniforms, flags, firearms and battle participation for the following: Palmetto Battalion, LeMoille, Illinois; 12th SC Infantry Volunteers, Elgin, Illinois; 1st Regiment SC Volunteers, Co C, Richland Volunteer Rifle Co, South Bend, Indiana; Edgefield Hussars, Co A, Hampton Legion, Bothell, Washington; Claremont Rifles, Co G, Hampton Legion, Fort Irwin, California; Pee Dee Light Artillery reenactment group located in Warren, Michigan; Hampton Legion of the United Armies of the North and South, Littlestown, Pennsylvania. There are CSA groups in England, Switzerland and Belgium. South Carolina groups include the Hampton Legion Cavalry, Columbia; Palmetto Light Artillery, Fountain Inn; Lexington Guards, West Columbia; The Butler Guards, Greenville; the 13th SC Infantry, Spartanburg and the 23rd SC Volunteers, Sumter.

We assisted legislators, authors, graduate students, the public and the press in their research. Research requests have proved time consuming. We supplied historical information to *CHAB NEWS*, a quarterly publication of the Confederate Historical Association of Belgium, located in Brussels.

We assisted other museums upon requests. We meet regularly with the Columbia Area Museums Directors Association and participate with them in setting up exhibits in the lower lobby of the State House. Upon request we furnish brochures and maps to our visitors, the Columbia Convention and Visitors Bureau, Columbia Chamber of Commerce, PRT Welcome Centers, a variety of groups planning conventions in Columbia.

FINANCES

During the past year, 69% of our budget was expended for personal service and 31% for operating expenses. According to a survey, published by the American Association of Museums, a healthier situation would be a ratio of 75% for personnel and 25% for operating expenses.

Annually we have brochures printed at a cost of 2½¢ each. We furnish city maps, showing the location of area museums. These we run off on our copying machine.

Our expenditures have been as follows:

APPROPRIATED - OPERATING EXPENSES\$ 44,201

Expended:

Contractual Services	\$ 4,095
Supplies	1,256
Fixed Charges & Contributions	32,741
Travel	3,493
Equipment	1,183

Total Expenditures \$ 42,768

Transfer to Personal Service

(due to retirement) 1,170

Transfer to Employer Contributions

(due to retirement) 252

Lapsed

11

TOTAL\$ 44,201

A financial inventory, of the more valuable artifacts, is on file at General Services for insurance purposes. The collection, obtained through gifts, with a few exceptions, continues to make money for the state, since the artifacts steadily increase in value.

Our Curators should attend museum affiliated workshops to further their knowledge of the museum profession.

Because of the economy, many children, particularly those on school tours, cannot afford admission fees. We are an educational institution, so our facility should be available to all and particularly to students. Therefore, we have attempted to operate on a minimal budget, asking only for funding which is absolutely necessary in the operation of the museum.

VISITORS

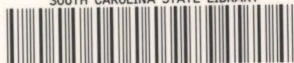
Our visitors have come from every state in the Union and the District of Columbia and from 23 foreign countries, representing every continent. International groups on tour included those from the Nippon Television Network, Japan; a group from England, Canada, Scotland and Ireland; the American Civil War Historical Society of Northwest England, for whom we had a reception at the museum.

Some museums throughout the country have reported a decrease in visitors. We are fortunate in that we have had an increase in our numbers.

1984 - 85 STATISTICAL DATA

	83-84	84-85
Visitors	64,000	68,000
States & DC represented	51	51
Foreign visitors	121	161
Foreign countries represented	27	23
Lectures to groups on tour	548	552
All day tours arranged	23	9
Senior Citizens on tour	444	281
Mental Health on tour	122	120
Inventory - Hours	198	640
Conservation - Hours	427	186
Exhibit preparation - Hours	293	641
Objects identified - Number	32	51
Objects identified - Hours	53	69
Books/pamphlets acquired	47	12
Museum workshops/meetings attended	17	6
Meetings at museum	9	16
ROTC ceremonies - in attendance	311	356
ROTC ceremonies - Number	5	9
TV tapings	0	2
State Government meetings attended	7	13
Letters to schools	250	250
Telephone inquiries	5,020	5,000
Inquiries - correspondence & visitors	4,625	4,675

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